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TS 202162

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25 May 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Director's Briefing of the Intelligence Special Group of the House Appropriations Committee - 25 May 1972

1. On 25 May the Director appeared before the Intelligence Special Group of the House Appropriations Committee. The meeting lasted from 1100 until 1230 hours.

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Discussions included SI and TKH material. Highlights of the session are summarized below. No transcript was taken.

2. Present from the Subcommittee were:

George H. Mahon (D., Texas), Chairman  
Frank T. Bow (R., Ohio)  
Jamie L. Whitten (D., Miss.)  
Robert L. F. Sikes (D., Fla.)

3. Present from the Committee staff was:

Ralph Preston, Staff Assistant

4. Accompanying the Director were:

Carl Duckett, DDS&T

John M. Maury, Legislative Counsel

5. The Chairman opened by saying he would like a session of about one hour dealing primarily with matters relating to the current SALT negotiations. He said he hoped to take up budget matters at a subsequent session. He was, he said, particularly interest in foreign reactions to the SALT negotiations, and U. S. policy regarding SALT. The Director replied that there had been no significant foreign reaction thus far since the final results of the SALT negotiations remained to be seen. He said he was not in a good position to speak for the Administration on the rationale of the

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SALT negotiations, but was prepared to discuss the status of the Soviet weapons systems involved in the negotiations, and to bring the group up-to-date on developments since the Director's earlier briefing of 3 February 1972. Mr. Sikes inquired about the chart comparing Soviet and American weapons systems in today's Washington Post and Mr. Duckett explained that it was generally accurate so far as round numbers were concerned but was erroneous in certain details.

6. Mr. Sikes spoke of the concern that Senator Jackson had voiced regarding some of the implications of a SALT agreement as described in recent press stories. The Director said he hoped his prepared statement would deal with some of the points raised by Senator Jackson. He then proceeded to deliver his prepared statement (a copy of which is on file in the Office of Legislative Counsel) in the course of which he offered some extemporaneous comments regarding [redacted] 25X1C

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7. In response to the group's expression of interest, [redacted] gave an extemporaneous briefing on the general situation in Indochina.

8. In the ensuing discussion Mr. Sikes asked a number of questions about the effect of the SALT agreement as reported in the press on respective U.S. and Soviet weapons systems. He was told that the agreement did not apply to manned bombers. In response to one of his questions about the value of a space docking agreement with the Soviets, Mr. Duckett suggested that one consideration was rescue missions in the event of emergency.

9. Mr. Sikes was interested in why the Soviets were so concerned with the ABM protection for the NCA and not missile sites. He was told that the Russians had always considered Moscow important not only as the seat of government but also for symbolic and historic reasons. It was noted that the Soviets showed very little interest in ABM protection for their ICBM sites. Sikes expressed interest in the Soviet presence in the Indian Ocean and Africa and was told that the only recent development of significance was the Soviet-Iraqi agreement giving Soviet vessels access to Iraqi ports. In conclusion, Mr. Sikes (Acting Chairman in the absence of Mr. Mahon who had left earlier) thanked the Director for his very helpful presentation, commenting that the Director's briefings represented the "most dependable source of information that the Committee had." 25X1A

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